

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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Monday - Friday
7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

HUNTINGDON/MARTINSBURG/SHADE GAP OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Wayne Miller named next president & CEO



by James Stauffer
Chairman of the Board

ON BEHALF OF the Valley REC board of directors, I am pleased to announce that Wayne F. Miller has been chosen to serve as the next president and CEO of the cooperative. He will succeed Edward A. Dezych, who is retiring after more than 10 years with the co-op, seven as president and CEO. The appointment will be effective Nov. 1.

Ed's electric utility career has spanned 42 years, including 38 in the rural electric program. In addition to Valley, he managed two other electric co-ops in Pennsylvania.

The impact of Ed's leadership will be evident at Valley Rural Electric for years to come. He has taken whatever steps necessary to ensure that the business runs as cost-effectively as possible. Believing that the most valuable assets of the cooperative are its employees, he has encouraged the development and training of staff at all levels. And he has challenged the board to tackle the tough issues that face the organization.

Ed has set financial goals that will direct the cooperative for the next 10 to 15 years. He has laid a foundation for the co-op's facilities and plant that will enhance our efficiencies and improve our quality of service for decades. He leaves Valley in a strong and stable condition.

Ed also leaves the cooperative in capable hands. Wayne brings more than 30 years of rural electric utility experience to his new position. Joining the Valley team in July 2007 as vice president, he has been responsible for researching and/or implementing a variety of technological projects, including system inventory, digital mapping and computerized staking, and automated meter reading.

Prior to his employment with Valley REC, Wayne served 20 years as general


manager of Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. Over a 10-year period from 1977 to 1987, he was promoted from manager of engineering to manager of engineering and operations to assistant general manager at Bedford REC. He also worked as an engineer for Dravo Corporation in Pittsburgh. Wayne served four years as an air traffic controller in the U.S. Air Force and is a Vietnam War veteran.

Wayne holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering technology from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and a master's degree in business administration from Shippensburg University. He became a registered professional engineer in 1983.

A member of the First Christian Church in Everett, Wayne serves on the church council and is secretary of the memorial and Christian higher education funds. He is also a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. He is a former director of the Everett Area School Board and the Joint Operating Committee of the Bedford County Technical Center, and is a former member of the Bedford Rotary Club.

Wayne and his wife, Cathy, have been married 33 years and reside in Clearville, Bedford County. They have two grown children: Laura of Roanoke, Va., and Mark of Baltimore, Md.

While we extend a warm welcome to Wayne in his new role at Valley REC, we bid a fond farewell to Ed as he embarks upon a well-deserved retirement. We hope he enjoys the opportunity to travel and take full advantage of the great outdoors. And we wish him many happy, healthy years ahead.

Meanwhile, we anticipate a smooth transition in the coming months, with Wayne continuing down the successful path set out by his esteemed predecessor. We look forward to working with him as the co-op confronts the challenges the future will surely bring. 

Hartslog Day

A heritage celebration

BY SUSAN R. PENNING

*Communications Specialist,
Member Services Department*

ON THE SECOND SATURDAY in October each year, locals and out-of-towners alike can visit the quaint borough of Alexandria, Huntingdon County, to take in the sights, sounds, tastes and smells of Hartslog Day.

This unique one-day event celebrates the history and heritage of the region. It first began in 1975 and is considered the county's largest and longest-running festival of its kind.

Sponsored primarily by the Hartslog Heritage Society, the celebration pays tribute to the early settlers and Native Americans who, centuries before, traveled through the area to trade wares.

Hartslog history

In the early days, northeastern Native Americans journeyed primarily on foot. Their walking paths often followed the patterns of the animals they hunted. Extending long distances, these trails typically paralleled rivers and connected with other routes, creating a primitive interstate system. When Europeans began settling in the region,

ONE-OF-A-KIND TOTEM: On Hartslog Day, the traditional Pumpkin Pole is raised in front of Alexandria's Memorial Public Library. The Huntingdon County event, held each year on the second Saturday in October, pays tribute to the early history of Hartslog Valley.



ABOVE: The Hartslog Day festival is the primary means of financial support for the Hartslog Heritage Museum.

LEFT: Jim Phillips demonstrates his skill at the pottery wheel. Everything sold on Hartslog Day must be handmade. Jim grew up in Alexandria and is a Juniata Valley High School graduate.

they widened the passages to accommodate horses.

Frankstown Path was one of these roadways, commonly traveled by fur traders on their way to the Allegheny River. It was along this path that, in 1744, a licensed trader named John Hart hollowed out a large log and used it over the next decade to feed his horses while he conducted business with Native Americans.

Early settlers used Hart's log as a landmark to describe the location and their claims. They referred to the area as Hartslog Settlement. In 1793, the area was laid out into town lots and named Alexandria, with the street near the site of the log dubbed Hartslog Street. Today, the name Hartslog is attached not only to a street, but also to a valley, a grange, a museum and, of course, a festival.

Tradition of celebration

This year, as the sun rises over Warrior Ridge, the 33rd Hartslog Day will commence.

The festival will once again offer a plethora of homemade treasures, includ-

ing fine art, stained glass, quilts, candles, soaps and lotions, wooden furniture, bird houses, walking sticks, pet items, gift baskets and holiday items ... to name a few. And in keeping with the ways of the early pioneers, the rule is that anything sold on Hartslog Day must be handmade.

In addition to crafts, there will be entertainment, exhibits, children's

activities, a parade and lots of food. Along Main Street and its tentacles, passersby will find baked goods, soups, sandwiches, hot dogs, hamburgers, pizza, french fries, tacos, funnel cakes and cold drinks. Favorites include the United Methodist Church's pancake and sausage breakfast and the Lions Club's chicken barbecue.

The traditional pumpkin pole raising will take place in front of the Memorial Public Library around 7:30 a.m. and the parade will begin at 9 a.m. on Main Street.

The Hartslog Heritage Museum, located on the second floor of the library, will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A free shuttle service will run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will pick up visitors at the parking lots at Juniata Valley Schools and Meadwestvaco.

Last year's Hartlog Day boasted a record number of attendees. And it's easy to see why. The celebration has been called "a strange little Pennsylvania festival" and "not your ordinary old-fashioned heritage folk festival."

Curiosity tends to bring in folks who want to see just what makes this festival different from the rest. Why not find out for yourself? ☀



LEFT: Hartslog Day visitors sample the wares at the Clover Creek Cheese Cellar booth. The dairy products are made from the raw milk of the cows at Ojala Farm in Williamsburg, Blair County.



Watch that TV power consumption

NFL season is in full swing. The big game is on ... and you want to watch it in high definition. But what good is HDTV without a big screen, right?

Well, before you run out to the nearest electronics store, make sure you have a "clear picture" of how that new model is going to impact your electric bills.

A typical standard tube television that operates four hours a day uses about 200 kilowatt-hours (kWh) annually. At 9 cents per kWh, that's under \$20 dollars a year.

The big impact on utility bills comes from larger sets and new technologies that require several times as many kWh to operate. Digital light processing (DLP) or rear-projection sets can use two or three times as much electricity as conventional TVs, as can liquid crystal diode (LCD) models. And plasma sets can use three to five times more energy!

Adding to the impact is the multi-TV home with users leaving sets on for long periods of time.

So while TVs are small appliances individually, it's important to pay attention to the type, number and average hours of use. Be sure to check out Valley REC's website at www.valleyrec.com. Follow the Home Energy Suite link to the TV calculators tab. There you can estimate the annual energy costs of all of the TVs in your home by inputting the number, type and average hours of operation for each.

Electric equipment Who owns what?

Valley REC-owned equipment is shown in **RED**. All other equipment is the responsibility of the consumer.

If a storm damages your home's electric wiring system, you may wonder who is responsible for fixing the equipment.

In the case of overhead distribution service, Valley Rural Electric Cooperative owns the electric meter at your home and the wires running from the pole to the point where they connect to the house at the outside service entrance cable.

The remainder of the electric equipment is the property and responsibility of the homeowner, including the service entrance cable (often encased in protective conduit), the meter base (the box in which the meter is mounted), the fuse or breaker box and the household wiring.

The co-op's job is to maintain the meters, wires and equipment that connect Valley's electric service to consumers' homes. As a Valley REC member, it's your duty to maintain open access to the meter and keep obstructions (including building materials and bushes) away from power lines and equipment.

It's also important for you to maintain your household electric system, including all wiring, fuse boxes or circuit breakers. If repairs are needed, or the meter base must be replaced or removed, please contact a qualified electrician.

Cooperative staff and consumers must work together to ensure electricity remains a safe and reliable asset. For more information on electric equipment maintenance, call the co-op's member services department at 814/643-2650 or 800/432-0680 or visit www.valleyrec.com.

